

# OVC Seeks a Tribal Community to Participate in the National Sexual Assault TeleNursing Center Pilot Project

In 2013, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), in collaboration with the National Institute of Justice, funded the development of a National Sexual Assault TeleNursing Center (NTC) through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The NTC is seeking a tribal community to participate in this innovative pilot project. If your community fits the eligibility criteria below, we encourage you to submit a *Concept Paper* that outlines your community's need and capacity for this type of service.

The goal of this project is to provide a community of support for sexual assault (SA) clinicians in tribal and rural facilities to increase their confidence, competence, and retention, and to support quality care for adult and adolescent SA patients. The NTC will use telemedicine technology to provide 24/7 remote clinician-to-clinician assistance from Massachusetts Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE).

Selected sites will receive a computer with video conferencing capabilities, an information technology (IT) site assessment, and installation assistance. The computer will be used for audio and video consultation with SANEs in Massachusetts before, during, and/or after performing a forensic examination. Funds will be provided to selected sites for a part-time (.2 full-time equivalent), site-based IT liaison, and a part-time (.5 full-time equivalent), site-based clinical liaison. Both liaisons will work with staff in the NTC for the duration of the project. Funding assistance from the NTC is limited to these two positions and purposes, and no additional financial support will be provided for participation in the project at this time. To be eligible to participate in this project, your facility(ies) must serve one or more tribal communities and meet the following criteria:

- be a single medical facility that provides 24/7 care and forensic examinations to SA patients or two collaborating facilities within 2 hours driving distance;
- have Internet connectivity via local area network, wireless, or cellular service;
- have policies and/or protocols in place that are specific for the care of SA victims;
- demonstrate support from the administration of your facility(ies); and
- collaborate with NTC staff and managers, and the Project Evaluation Team, to collect data on patients that receive TeleNursing consultation.

In your *Concept Paper*, describe your need for assistance in caring for SA patients, including collection of evidence. The *Concept Paper* should be no more than seven pages in length, double-spaced, and should address the following for *each* facility:

- identify the lead facility and the partnering facility, if applicable;
- reasons you are requesting assistance to care for and perform evidence collection examinations for SA victims;
- number of SA victims cared for in your facility(ies) in 2013;
- description of the population served by your facility(ies);
- description of the type and extent of care you provide to victims of SA;
- number and title of staff responsible for the care of victims of SA;
- type and extent of training your staff received *specifically* for the care of victims of SA, and their experience in using a rape kit;
- description of your relationship with law enforcement and the rape crisis program in your area (if any); and
- description of victim advocate(s) or other supports available to victims of SA, and your relationship to these supports (if any).

Finalists will be notified by e-mail no later than March 31, 2014, and invited to submit a full application.

E-mail your *Concept Paper* to [askovc@ncjrs.gov](mailto:askovc@ncjrs.gov) by Friday, March 7, 2014, and include the name and address of the lead facility and the contact person's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Contact [Dr. Christine Murphy](#) with questions about the *Concept Paper* process or preparation. Questions and answers will be made available to all potential respondents.